

they are invariably handsomer than the latter and make an equally good if not better plough animal.

From the very few occasions that I have been able to observe the bull of mixed blood there can be no doubt that they are somewhat more aggressive than the domestic bull. They are rather more difficult to deal with than the latter but not to an extent that they cannot be managed by the herdsmen. On the one occasion that I was present when such a bull was with a herd that was approached by a wild bull, the former showed considerable spirit in advancing to meet the intruder. It was not reluctant to fight but when the inevitable clash came it was just no match for the wild bull which only made off when a gun was fired.

I have been told by the local people that the animal that they fear most is the bull of mixed descent born in the jungle to a domestic cow that has 'gone wild' having been abducted as described earlier by a wild bull. Should such an animal leave the jungle to visit village herds it proves an absolute menace in every way. It is said to have little or no fear of man and is wilfully destructive and completely unpredictable in its actions. I have not, however, as yet personally come across such an animal.

I do not wish to give the impression that the solitary wild bull in this area is or can be treated with anything but the utmost respect as this is certainly not so. The villagers feel that the visits of such bulls are inevitable and although there are certain disadvantages in using them for breeding purposes these are ultimately outweighed by the advantages. The people have through years of experience come to know what to expect of the wild bull and act accordingly, making the very best of circumstances over which they have no control.

TIPPUK TEA ESTATE,

P. O. TALAP,

ASSAM,

November 19, 1968.

R. W. SCOTT

#### 4. FURTHER EXTENSION OF RECORDED SOUTHERN RANGE OF LITTLE CRAKE, *PORZANA PARVA* (SCOPOLI)

In the *Journal* (65:217-218), Sálím Ali and one of us (H.A.) referred to an overlooked specimen of the Little Crane, *Porzana parva* (Scopoli), obtained in Bombay many years ago, which extended the currently accepted southward limit of this species. In the course of

cataloguing the Bombay collection, we have found another specimen (No. 13880), obtained by T. R. Bell at Karwar, N. Kanara (no date), which takes the limit further south. This was listed as *P. pusilla* and appears to have been overlooked in earlier literature.

The key in the INDIAN HANDBOOK (2:159) reads:—

Breast immaculate; wing under 110 mm.

Outer edge of primary brown; wing over 94 mm. *P. parva*.

Outer edge of primary white; wing under 93 mm. *P. pusilla*.

The white edge to the wing is more pronounced in *pusilla* but in both the present specimen and another female *parva* from Mesopotamia, the outer edge is white and, in the absence of a specimen of *pusilla* for comparison, may well be placed in that group.

In the material available (7 *parva*, 20 *pusilla*), the wing measurements of the males are perhaps exclusive (2 *parva* 101, 104 cf. 13 *pusilla* 88-96 av. 90.25) but the difference between female *parva* (97, 97, 99, 100) and the larger juvenile males of *pusilla* (88-95 av. 89) is marginal, and very likely to overlap in a larger series. The underparts of ♀ *parva*, however, are uniformly buff-coloured while most *pusilla* are whitish with varying amounts of brown (and grey) on the sides of the breast. A constant difference appears to be the colour of the head—uniformly brown in both sexes in *parva*, and marked with black in *pusilla*. Mr. D. Goodwin of the British Museum (N.H.), who has very kindly confirmed our identification, agrees that this is a good character for differentiating between the species.

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## 5. THE NAME OF THE JUNGLE BABBLER *TURDOIDES STRIATUS* (AVES) FROM ORISSA

While working on the ranges of the babblers for a forthcoming volume of the HANDBOOK, Dr. Sálím Ali pointed out to me that he had collected the Jungle Babbler in Orissa which looked very different from nominate *striatus* but that his specimens had never been critically examined. In their work on the Jungle Babbler (called by them, *Turdoides somervillei* and races), Whistler & Kinnear (1936, J.